# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# MINES
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:398
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2007
COAL CRISIS AT NALCO
Dubey Shri Chandra Shekhar;Satpathy Shri Tathagata

**Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government is aware that NALCO in Orissa has reached a crisis stage due to inadequate supply of coal;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the steps taken to address the problem; and

(c) whether the production of Aluminium has been affected recently as a result thereof?

## Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES (DR.T.SUBBARAMI REDDY)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): NALCO has informed that the reasons for inadequate supply of coal are lower raising at the Bharatpur mines of Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) during peak summer months, equipment related problems at Bharatpur mines affecting coal transportation to NALCO`s loading point, non-availability of railway rakes for transportation and some local issues. NALCO has purchased imported coal to blend with local coal and has got allocation of 75 rakes of coal from Bharat Coking Coal Limited as a special one time measure, against which receipt has commenced from 7th August, 2007.

(c): Due to low coal supplies, at present five units of the Captive Power Plant are in operation as against the normal operation of seven units, as a result of which there is shortfall of power availability from captive units for production of aluminium in the smelter. However, aluminium production is being maintained by NALCO by purchasing around 100 MW power from State Grid.